

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 122852

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY ARA:GECHAFIN

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P 272119Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122852

FOR ASST SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL REPEAT MONTEVIDEO 1733 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFO BURNOS AIRES DIA USCINCSO MAY 26

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, UY

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL-MILITARY CONFRONTATION

REF: MVD 1732 AND PREVIOUS

1. GOU ANNOUNCED OVER WEEKEND THAT CR. JOSE ROCCA SIENRA, WHO HAD BEEN NAMED BY PRESIDENT BORDABERRY, WOULD CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL MEAT INSTITUTE (INAC), AND THAT PEILE, "AS PROPOSED BY THE COMMANDERS IN CHIEF", WOULD SERVE ON INAC'S BOARD. NO OTHER PUBLIC, OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE.

2. ALL CT SOURCES INDICATE THAT BORADBERRY ALSO OFFERED TO REINSTATE THE SAME REGULATIONS WHICH HAD CAUSED HIM TO FIRE PEILE. HOWEVER, SAME SOURCES UNANIMOUS IN REPORTING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 122852

MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATIO'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM AND THE POSITION OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE VEGH VILLEGAS WAS REAFFIRMED. POSTPONED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND RES-
UTION WERE CABINET CHANGES AND A PRESIDENTIAL CLARIFI-

CATION AS TO WHERE HE STANDS WITH RESPECT TO ELECTIONS
IN 1976.

3. THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK MAY HAVE BEEN POSED IN
SUCH A WAY AS TO HAVE VIRTUALLY FORCED A TEMPORARY UNITY
AMONG THE GENERALS. HOWEVER, DEEP DIVISIONS REMAIN AND
THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS INDICATIONS THAT MIDDLE GRADE
OFFICERS WERE NOT AT ALL PLEASED WITH THEIR SUPERIORS'
HANDLING OF THE MATTER, APPARENTLY BELIEVING THAT THE
GENERALS HAD PUSHED THE PRESIDENT TOO HARD ON A RELATIVELY
MINOR ISSUE.

DESPITE THE FACE-SAVER GRANTED THE PRESIDENT BY THE
MILITARY'S CONFIRMATION OF ROCCA, BORDABERRY MADE CERTAIN
CONCESSIONS DURING THIS FIRST ROUND. THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVATE SEC-
RETARY, PROBABLY REFLECTING BORDABERRY'S THINKING, TOLD THE ADCM ON
THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 24 THAT THE PRESIDENCY AND URUGUAY'S INTER-
NATIONAL IMAGE WERE TOO IMPORTANT TO SACRIFICE OVER SUCH A MINOR
MATTER. IN ADDITION, HE SAID, "IF THE PRESIDENT GOES,
HIS MINISTERS WILL GO, TOO, INCLUDING VEGH AND BLANCO".

5. THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS ENDED MAY 24 BUT WE HAVE ENTERED A
NEW PHASE DURING WHICH THE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT
ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED, INCLUDING THE POLITICAL
DIRECTION OF THE NATION IN 1976 AND BEYOND.
HAAHR

UNQTE
INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, DISPUTES, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE122852
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750185-0470
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaakwc.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ACOM, PINS, PINT, UY, (BLANCO, JUAN CARLOS), (BORDABERRY AROCENA, JUAN MARIA)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006